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# EMPLOYER *Update*



## Meet the Washington County Employer Committee



**Back row left to right:** Kyle Ashby (Spectrum), Todd Graff (COSTCO), Sandy Vavrek (Ram Manufacturing), Dave Cox (Cox Trucking), Pat Needy (City of St. George), Kim Johnson (DWS).  
**Front row left to right:** Dave Turner (DWS Office Manager), Karalee Smith (Skywest), Annette Basso (St. George GMAC Real Estate), Scott Hirschi (Washington Co. Economic Development).  
**Not pictured:** Cheri Sapp (Sunroc) and Vickie Wilson (Dixie Regional Hospital).

The Washington County Employer Committee, established April 30, 2002, is composed of employer representatives who volunteer to serve as advisors to the Department of Workforce Services (DWS). The goal of the Washington County Employer Committee is to increase awareness and effectiveness in use of DWS programs through seminars, workshops, and other training services. The committee utilizes its members' expertise to identify employer needs and resolve employment issues.

The committee meets once every two months and sponsors activities

such as employer workshops and seminars. These workshops, presented in a timely and cost-effective manner, address a variety of employer concerns and typically draw 50 or more employers. Past topics include: *Wrongful Discharge*, *The Americans With Disabilities Act*, *Proper and Improper Pre-Employment Inquiry*, and *Labor Law*.

If you are interested in learning more about the Washington County Employer Committee or getting involved with an employer committee in your area, contact your DWS Business Consultant.

### ***Unemployment Insurance Seminar a Success***

The Richfield Employment Center hosted Administrative Law Judge Michael Medley, who brought a well presented and very informative seminar to Sevier County employers and businesses interested in learning more about the Unemployment Insurance (UI) appeals process. The seminar, held May 7, 2002, was well attended, received and, judging from comments, very much appreciated.

#### State of Utah

Governor Michael O. Leavitt

#### Western Region

Jan Thompson, Regional Director  
40 South 200 East • St. George, UT  
(435) 688-3100



## Meet Raylene Ireland, New Director of Department of Workforce Services

On Friday, April 12, 2002 Utah Governor Mike Leavitt announced that Raylene G. Ireland would be the new Executive Director of the Department of Workforce Services. At the same time he announced two other changes in his Cabinet. David Harmer, now heads the Department of Community and Economic Development and S. Camille Anthony took the helm at the Department of Administrative Services replacing Ireland.

"I have chosen to use these changes as an opportunity to reassign experienced and proven managers," said Leavitt. "I'm confident each will approach the challenges of their respective agencies with fresh insights."

Raylene Ireland served as the Executive Director of the Department of Administrative Services since 1993, overseeing eight divisions critical to the internal functions of state government such as information technology services, finance and facility management and construction. During her tenure, the state implemented the wide area network, improving productivity and making technology available to employees statewide.

"I'm very excited to be at Workforce Services. It's a new challenge for me and I plan to rely upon the team that Bob Gross has put in place," said Ireland. "I am also looking forward to touring the state and introducing myself to the staff in our employment centers and regional offices."

Ireland chairs the State Capitol Preservation Subcommittee on Planning and Preservation and has played an active role in the construction project for the Capitol campus. She currently serves on many committees and boards, including the Workers Compensation Fund Board, the Capitol Preservation Board, the National Association of State Chief Administrators, and the State Rate Committee.

Prior to her service in state government, Ireland worked in local government as the assistant to the mayor of Provo City. She has served on the Provo-Orem Chamber of Commerce and was the first woman to be elected chairperson of the Utah County Republican Party.

Ireland became a charter member of the Women In Management Council, and would later receive their "Outstanding Woman" recognition award. She was appointed to the Judicial Nominating Committee, and was the chair of the Freedom Festival Awards Gala for five years. She was also a PTA reading tutor at her children's elementary school.

From 1978 to 1985, Ireland was vice-president of Ireland and Associates, a family-run manufacturing firm. An alumna of Brigham Young University, she is married to Ward J. Ireland and currently resides in Lindon, Utah. She and her husband are the parents of seven children.

The Utah State Senate formally confirmed Raylene Ireland's appointment on April 24.

### Economic Information FREE

Discover the gold mine of economic information waiting for you on our Web site:

[http://wi.dws.state.ut.us/employer\\*](http://wi.dws.state.ut.us/employer*)

- statewide data for Utah
- county-level economic information
- local community-level information
- occupational wage data
- entry level, average, median and middle range
- employment cost index
- consumer price index
- income
- personal and per capita; median household
- list of Utah firms by industry and area: FirmFind
- complete labor market information publications
- the latest economic news
- links to lots of other sites
- links to other states
- LMI; U.S. Department of Labor; State Tax Commission; Census Bureau; Governor's Office of Demographic and Economic Analysis; U of U Bureau of Economic and Business Research

Download, print or explore a wealth of information to help you make smart business decisions!

\* In mid-2002, this URL will change to:  
<http://jobs.utah.gov/wi/employer>



## Save the date September 24, 2002

### SHRM Crossroads Conference "The Great Behind The Great"

September 24, 2002  
Golf Tournament September 27

For Registration Information Call 801-539-7495  
For Display Booth Information Call 801-455-6068

## Online Unemployment Contributions Services a Hit With Employers

"If you build it they will come" not only applies to the 1989 hit movie *Field of Dreams*, it also applies to Utah's Department of Workforce Services Unemployment Contributions' Web site.

This is confirmed by the fact that one third of all new registrations are now done through the internet. Within minutes, a new employer can obtain an account number and rate. If they need to notify the department of a change of ownership, name, address, or telephone number, they can do so online and in real-time.

An even bigger hit with employers and tax preparers is the ability to satisfy their entire quarterly reporting obligations online. Quarterly wage lists, tax reports, and payments can be submitted quickly in a four-step process that gives the employer the option of authorizing an electronic

funds transfer (EFT) or submitting their payment with a coupon. And immediately after submitting their report, the employer can view their transaction, as well as all prior filings, on a reporting history screen.

The popularity of internet reporting is evidenced by the results and comments received after it became available April 1, 2002. More than 2,500 employers, or 4.9 percent, filed their First Quarter 2002 report online. Twenty one percent of those are authorizing EFT payments.

"I had so much fun filing all my clients' returns. I am so impressed with the Department of Workforce Services for creating this opportunity for us to file on line. The step by step for filing is so simple that you don't realize how fast and easy it is."

- Accountant and Payroll Specialist  
in Provo, Utah



- \* **Recruiting employees?**
- \* **Trying to retain good employees?**
- \* **Trying to decide on pay increases for next year?**
- \* **Want to know what the going rate is for a certain occupation?**

This information is FREE and is just a mouse click away on the DWS Economic Information web site: <http://jobs.utah.gov/wi> Click on "Occupational Wage Information" and sample our wage "buffet."  
Be sure to bookmark the site for quick, easy access any time.

## KUDOS

*"Thank you, thank you, THANK YOU! Someone finally gets it! I loved filing my unemployment insurance form on your web site. The site worked (no errors), was efficient, was intuitive, and was relatively pain free (as pain free as filing payroll tax reports can be anyway)!"*

**John W. Daniels**

*"I realize that you probably don't hear a thank you very often. So I am saying thank you. Thank you for helping put food in my children's mouths, and thank you for keeping them healthy with medical insurance. I am a single mother that is trying to become independent by working 40 hours per week and without your help I would not be able to succeed."*

**Heidi Tulin**

*"I always appreciate being able to work with your staff members, but yesterday Alana Stewart went above and beyond her expected responsibilities to help an individual with great needs. Thank you for your willingness to work so well with our agency and for the flexibility of your employees to 'do something different' to help those in need."*

**Kathryn Monson,  
Program Director, CAPSA**

Utah Department of Workforce Services  
Executive Director's Office  
P.O. Box 143100  
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-3100

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## Western Region

### *Local Mill Keeps the Doors Open*

With dedication and hard work, a local sawmill proves survival is possible in this challenging economy. **Skyline Forest Resource**, a family-owned mill, will now keep workers employed and the doors open. In November of last year, Utah Forest Products, a sawmill located in Escalante, Utah informed workers that the plant would be closing its doors. A workshop was set up by the Department of Workforce Services (DWS) in Panguitch, and a Rapid Response (RR) team was formed. Mill workers were laid off and given *Dislocated Worker* status. Those individuals now are looking forward to having their jobs back.

The manager of the mill Steven Steed and his brothers Shane and Scott, have since purchased the mill and re-established the name "Skyline Forest Resource," in keeping with the name established by their father who started the original mill in 1954. After the death of Paul Steed in 1977, the mill was operated by three different owners and moved to a different location. Most recently, a Wyoming company that operated the mill as Utah Forest Products from 1995 to 2001 announced it was closing its doors.

The mill has come full circle and is once again owned by the Steed family. Located on the family ranch in Escalante, they expect to start up production in June 2002. It has been an honor for Panguitch's DWS office to work with these people.

### Western Region Business Consultants

Beaver	Connie Fails	(435) 438-5498
Cedar City	Bob Cranford	(435) 865-6548
Delta	Linda Lundberg	(435) 864-3860
Fillmore	Wendell Robison	(435) 743-5304
Junction	Janet Butterfield	(435) 577-2443
Kanab	David Nash	(435) 644-8910
Loa	Becky Pace	(435) 836-2406
Manti	Bruce Barton	(435) 835-0738
Nephi	Carol Lange	(435) 623-1927
Panguitch	Jolene Smith	(435) 676-8896
Richfield	Lela King	(435) 893-0016
St. George	Kimberly Johnson	(435) 986-3541

